

AMENDMENT

In The Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-21.

Please add new Claims 22-32 as follows.

1-21. (Canceled).

22. (New) A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame;

at least one track sprocket having a diameter and rotationally mounted to the frame about a sprocket axis; and

a guide rail assembly pivotally connected to the frame by at least two elongated members, the elongated members pivotally mounted to the frame about respective elongated member axes, such that all the elongated member axes are positioned within about three track sprocket diameters of the sprocket axis.

23. (New) The snowmobile of claim 22, wherein:

a length of the elongated members is substantially equal and constant, and the elongated members are substantially parallel to each other.

24. (New) The snowmobile of claim 22, wherein:

the guide rail assembly is capable of a range of motion relative to the frame; and

an angle of inclination between the guide rail assembly and the frame remains substantially constant throughout the range of motion.

25. (New) The snowmobile of claim 22, further comprising biasing means for urging the guide rail assembly away from the frame, the biasing means comprising:

at least one truncated member pivotally coupled coaxially with, and fixed relative to, at least one of the elongated members; and

at least one deflectable member pivotally coupled to at least one truncated member and the frame.

26. (New) The snowmobile of claim 25, wherein the biasing means is positioned forward of the guide rail assembly when the guide rail assembly is at an uppermost position in a range of motion.

27. (New) The snowmobile of claim 25, wherein a compression of the biasing means becomes progressively greater as the guide rail assembly moves from an expanded position to a compressed position.

28. (New) The snowmobile of claim 25, wherein a leverage ration between at least one of the elongated members and at least one of the truncated members is at least 1.5:1.

29. (New) The snowmobile of claim 22, further comprising a flexible endless track disposed about the guide rail assembly.

30. (New) A suspension assembly for a snowmobile, comprising:

a frame;

at least one track sprocket having a diameter and a rotational axis; and

first and second substantially parallel elongated members having a substantially equal length, the first elongated member pivotally mounted to the frame at a first pivot point, the second elongated member pivotally mounted to the frame at a second pivot point;

wherein the first and second elongated members are coupled to the frame within about three track sprocket diameters of the track sprocket rotational axis.

31. (New) The suspension assembly of claim 30, wherein a distance from the track sprocket rotational axis to the first pivot point is about 5 inches.

32. (New) The suspension assembly of claim 30, wherein a distance from the track sprocket rotational axis to the second pivot point is about 10 inches.